

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the current Application. Claims 2-17 and 19-20 have been amended so as to start with "the" instead of "a" or "an", as requested by the Examiner. Claim 20 has also been amended to refer to "the apparatus" rather than "the method", as requested by the Examiner. Therefore, note that claims 2-17 and 19-20 have been amended only to address informalities pointed out by the Examiner and not for prior art reasons. No other amendments have been made herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 18 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over US Patent 5517505 (hereinafter referred to as Bucholz) in view of US Patent 5892927 (hereinafter referred to as Boehmer) because neither Bucholz, Boehmer, nor their combination teach or suggest each and every element of the claims. For example, referring to claim 1, claim 1 includes determining a length of the start of frame symbol, determining a length of an adjusted synchronization field, determining if the length of the adjusted synchronization field is less than the length of the start of frame symbol, and if so, concluding that the start of frame symbol and the synchronization field are valid. Note also that both the start of frame symbol and the synchronization field are detected on the communication bus. The Examiner states that Bucholz teaches a start of frame field; however, the Examiner agrees that Bucholz fails to teach the other elements of the claims, and states instead that Boehmer discloses these elements. However, Applicants respectfully disagree.

With respect to Boehmer, Boehmer does not teach or suggest determining if the length of the adjusted synchronization field is less than the length of the start of frame symbol to determine validity of the start of frame symbol and the synchronization field that were detected on the communication bus, as claimed in claim 1. That is, Boehmer does not teach or suggest determining the validity of a symbol detected on the communication bus and a field detected on the communication bus by comparing the lengths of the symbol and the adjusted field. Boehmer only discusses comparing a symbol with its own adjusted nominal timing. That is, Boehmer teaches a method of adjusting a nominal timing for a symbol with a propagation delay to ensure that the propagation delay is accounted for when determining what symbol is received. In Boehmer, each symbol has a nominal delay as defined by the communication protocol (such as J1850); however, due to the delay of propagation, the echoed data signal could appear to be a

different width than the original transmission and thus be decoded as a different symbol or invalid symbol (see e.g. col. 2, lines 13-30 and col. 3, lines 52-62). Therefore, the nominal delays have to be adjusted to compensate for these propagation delays such that each symbol in Boehmer is checked against an adjusted nominal value. However, this does not teach or suggest comparing the length of a symbol or field from a communication bus with the length of another symbol or field from the communication bus to determine validity of the symbol or field.

The Examiner refers to Boehmer as "initiating a synchronization field and an apparatus to adjust its length and determine the new length." Therefore, according to the Examiner, the synchronization field of Boehmer corresponds to the length of the symbol according to nominal bus specifications (i.e. the nominal length) because it is this nominal length that the delay compensation circuitry adjusts with the propagation delay. The timing of a symbol in Boehmer is then compared with this adjusted nominal length. However, the nominal lengths of Boehmer are programmed into memory according to prespecified nominal bus specifications and are not detected on the communication bus itself. Claim 1, however, claims comparing the length of an adjusted synchronization symbol to a start of frame symbol to determine validity, where both the start of frame symbol and synchronization field are detected on the communication bus itself. Furthermore, the Examiner states that "if the synchronization field is properly compensated for the delay, the length of the adjusted synchronization field will always be less than that of the initiated synchronization." Firstly, claim 1 does not refer to "initiated synchronization" but a synchronization field detected on the communication bus. Secondly, in claim 1, the length of the adjusted synchronization field is compared with the *length of the start of frame symbol*. Furthermore, claim 1 uses a comparison of lengths to determine validity, while, if the Examiner's statement is assumed correct, this comparison is not even necessary in Boehmer because the synchronization field "will always be less than that of the initiated synchronization." There is also no motivation in Boehmer to determine if the length of an adjusted synchronization field is less than that of a start of frame symbol since each symbol in Boehmer is compared against its own adjusted nominal value, and not to the length of another symbol detected on the communication bus. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over Bucholz in view of Boehmer.

With respect to claims 18 and 21, the same reasons provided with respect to claim 1 apply to claims 18 and 21. Therefore, Applicant submits that each of claims 18 and 21 are also

patentable over the cited references for at least those reasons stated with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, claims 2-17 have been indicated allowable and have therefore not been addressed. Also, claims 19-20 have not been independently addressed since they depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 18 and are therefore also allowable for at least those reasons which apply to claim 18.

Conclusion

Although Applicants may disagree with statements made by the Examiner in reference to the claims and the cited references, Applicants are not discussing all these statements in the current Office Action, yet reserve the right to address them at a later time if necessary.

Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of the pending claims. Contact me if there are any issues regarding this communication or the current Application.

If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 503079, Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.

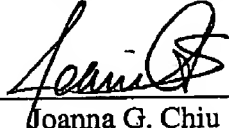
Respectfully submitted,

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.
Law Department

Customer Number: 23125

By: _____


Joanna G. Chiu
Attorney of Record
Reg. No.: 43,629
Telephone: (512) 996-6839
Fax No.: (512) 996-6854